Job Creation in Health Careers

Tacoma Community College (TCC) recognizes the shortage in health care workers has been exacerbated by the COVID-19 pandemic and is dedicated to creating a knowledgeable workforce for our community. With community partners, we have recently doubled the capacity of our radiology program by adding an evening cohort, ideal for students who juggle professional or personal obligations. We’ve also launched a community-based Emergency Medical Technician (EMT) training certificate on the Eastside of Tacoma to address equity gaps in this typically underserved community and prepare students to advance a career in emergency medical services. Interested students are encouraged to talk to an advisor about TCC’s health career options.

Creating Equitable Education Through Student Support

A commitment to equity is embedded in the culture at TCC, prominently displayed in both our mission and strategic plan. Given the recent pandemic and social unrest, equity gaps have become noticeably wider, prompting TCC to develop new and bolder strategies to bridge those gaps. From free laptops to food assistance and emergency grants to housing support, TCC has provided wraparound support for our vulnerable and marginalized students. Our EDI office has been working to shape TCC into an anti-racist institution by reviewing existing policies and hiring processes through an equity lens, and empowering our community to embrace differences in identities and experiences.

Building Guided Pathways

TCC was one of five Washington community and technical colleges to be awarded a College Spark Guided Pathways Grant in 2018. Since then, the $500,000 grant has supported TCC’s efforts to implement the Guided Pathways model. This approach has been proven to simplify choices for community college students, improving completion and graduation rates, especially for first-generation students. Currently, TCC is staffing new advisors and navigators, eliminating most developmental coursework, updating orientation, and moving to a co-requisite model for Math and English that should significantly reduce equity gaps.